of file charges from applicants. RBI has deputed an officer to make enquiry in this regard and he has been informed that the Brito finance and Trading Co. Ltd., New Delhi is a consultancy firm dealing with industrial project loans, bank loans for plant and machinery, working capital etc. The firm provides assistance to borrowers in getting loans sanctioned and it earns commission for the services rendered.

(b) No such complaint appears to have been received in Banking Division in the recent past.

(c) and (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Foreign Donations

2782. SHRI TILAK RAJ SINGH:

SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE:

SHRI R. DEVADASS:

Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Efforts on to let Cong. of the hook" appearing in 'The Hindustan Times' dated July 23, 1997;

(b) if so, the factual position thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUCTICE (SHRI RAMAKANT D. KHALAP): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is the opinion of the Correspondent of the paper and not that of Government.

(c) The matter is pending in Delhi High Court. Since the matter is subjudice, no views can be expressed at this stage.

Restriction on Imports

2783. SHRI K.P. SINGH DEO: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have imposed restrictions on the import of some agricultural and consumer goods;

(b) if so, the details of those items;

(c) whether the Government propose to relax the restriction on the import of some farm goods; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) and (b) Import of agricultural and consumer goods continues to be restricted under the current Export & Import Policy. However, Import of certain agricultural & consumer goods is permitted either freely or against the transferable Special Import Licence. Item-wise import policy of various goods is indicated in the ITC (HS) Classificaitions of Export & Import Items, copies of which are available in the Parliament library.

(c) & (d) Review of Export and Import Policy is an on going process and changes in it are made from time to time as and when considered necessary.

Export of Gold Jewellery

2784. SHRI AJMEERA CHANDULAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the value of gold jewellery exported from India during each of the last three years;

(b) whether it is a fact that exports of gold jewellery from the country have virtually come to a stand still in recent months;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the staps taken to boost jewellery export during 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (DR. BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH): (a) The value of gold jewellery exported from India during each of the last three years is given below:

(US $ Million)

Year	Value
1994-95	421.20
1995-96	480.40
1996-97	511.80

(Source:DGCI&S)

(b) No, Sir. The exports of gold jewellery during the period April-June, 1997 vis-a-vis April-June, 1996 is given below:

(US $ Million)

April - June'97 (Pro.)	156.23
April - June'96	146.97

(Source GJEPC, Mumbai)

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Gold Jewellery has been identified by the Government of India as an Extreme Focus product and continues to be a thrust area of our exports. Accordingly, the Government has taken a number of steps to boost exports from this sector during 1997-98 which include : (i) in order to increase the supply of gold, RBI has been authorised to nominate additional agencies for the import and supply of precious metals to exporters; (ii) third party